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INDIAN AGING MEETING INFORMATION MAY BE USED
IN ESTABLISHING NATIONAL GERONTOLOGY CENTER

MISSOULA--

Information assembled at the North American Conference on Aging, including video tapes of the Workshop on Indian Aging held Sept. 15-19 at the University of Montana in Missoula, may serve as the basis for a Senate hearing and for the establishment of a proposed National Indian Gerontology Center in Montana, according to Dr. E. Clifford Brennen, professor of social work at UM.

Brennen, who served as coordinator of the Indian aging workshop at UM, said the North American Conference on Aging will be held April 25-28, 1976, at the Northern Hotel, Billings. The former Children's Home facilities at Twin Bridges are being considered as the site of the proposed National Indian Gerontology Center, according to Brennen.

During the Workshop on Indian Aging at UM, representatives of seven Indian reservations in Montana met on the Missoula campus with urban Indian representataives from larger communities. The workshop was cosponsored by the UM Department of Social Work's Continuing Education Program and the Montana United Indian Association, with funding provided by the state Aging Services Bureau.

Brennen said the purpose of the UM workshop "was to gather information on the special circumstances of elderly Indians and to propose suggestions for improving programs for such persons."

Thomas Yellowtail, medicine man from the Crow Reservation, gave the invocation at the five-day Missoula workshop. Guest speakers included Dr. Joseph E. Brown, associate professor of religious studies at UM; Susie Yellowtail, a Crow Indian who formerly served in the Surgeon General's office; Joe Day Child of the Rocky Boy Reservation (Joe Saddler, interpreter); Sherry Saddler, Missoula, executive director of Qua-Qui, an agency for Indians; Charles I. Chattin, Helena, director of the Elderly Urban Indian Project, and Irwin Red Fox, Billings, director of the Area VII Agency on Aging.

Conference observers included Percy De Wolf, Billings, former state senator from Browning, who is executive director of the Montana Indian Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.